

# LIFE ShepForBio 1st International Conference

The role of pastoral schools in the  
management of natural habitats

10 & 11 May 2023, Florac (France)

## REPORT



# LIFE SHEP FOR BIO



LIFE20 NAT/IT/001076

Shepherds for Biodiversity in Mountain Marginal Areas





LIFE SHEP  
FOR BIO



EUROMONTANA

## Az. C7 - Promozione del pastoralismo come strumento di conservazione della biodiversità in ambito europeo)

### Contents

1_ Introduction.....	2
1.1_ Participants.....	3
2_ Day 1: Morning - Plenary session.....	5
2.1_ Ecosystem Services and EU policy.....	5
2.2_ Best practices to protect natural habitats and pastoral lands.....	6
2.3_ How to manage your herd for better biodiversity management?.....	7
2.4_ ShepForBio: objectives and actions.....	8
2.5_ Pastoral practices and biodiversity in the Coussouls de Crau Nature Reserve.....	9
2.6_ The role of the National Park in supporting pastoral activities and managing natural habitats.....	10
2.7_ Transfer of pastoral Knowledge through collaborative projects.....	12
2.7.1_ Results of the Erasmus + PastorEA project.....	12
2.7.2_ Results of the Transmission Past'Orale project.....	13
2.7.3_ Transfer of pastoral knowledge: the experience of Fire Shepherds..	14
3_ Day 1: Afternoon – workshops.....	16
Workshop 1.....	16
Workshop 2.....	18
4_ Day 2: Field visit.....	21
4.1_ Field visit to the plots of Sarah Courty and Julien Lespine, sheep farmers and shepherds.....	21
4.2_ Visit of the Interdepartmental Agreement of Causses and Cevennes - UNESCO site for its Mediterranean agro-pastoral landscapes.....	22
5_ Conclusions and next steps.....	23



LIFE20 NAT/IT/001076

Shepherds for Biodiversity in Mountain Marginal Areas





LIFE SHEP  
FOR BIO



EUROMONTANA

## 1. Introduction

The 1st International Conference of the LIFE ShepForBio project was successfully held in Florac, France on May 10th and 11th, 2023. This event was organised in partnership with the Institute Agro Florac, and focused on the role that pastoral schools can play in promoting best practices for habitat conservation and biodiversity preservation. The conference gathered 30 participants and encompassed various engaging activities, including comprehensive presentations, workshops, and study visits, all aimed at fostering knowledge sharing and networking opportunities.

The conference involved a diverse range of attendees, including pastoral schools, shepherds, natural park managers, and various public and private stakeholders involved in pastoralism and habitat management. Participating schools delivered presentations that primarily focused on their curricula and teaching methodologies for training new shepherds. They also highlighted the main challenges they encounter in their work. Moreover, the event provided an ideal platform for attendees to familiarize themselves with the ShepForBio project itself, while also facilitating brainstorming sessions on future expectations and activities of the Discussion Forum.

Overall, the 1st International Conference of the LIFE ShepForBio project proved to be a highly informative and productive gathering, where valuable insights were shared, connections were made, and the importance of pastoral schools in promoting habitat conservation and biodiversity preservation was emphasized.



LIFE20 NAT/IT/001076

Shepherds for Biodiversity in Mountain Marginal Areas





LIFE SHEP  
FOR BIO



EUROMONTANA

## 1.1 Participants

The event involved NGOs, pastoral schools, agricultural Institutes and, representatives from National Parks from France, Spain and Portugal (see Table 1 ).

Type or Organisation	Organisation's name	Country
Shepherd School	Escola dos Pastores	Portugal
Shepherd School	School of shepherds of Catalonia	Spain
Shepherd School	CFPPA Lannemezan	France
Other	DREAM Italia	Italy
Shepherd School	CFPPA de la Cazotte	France
National Agency	National Agency of Mountain Area	Romania
Speaker	Institut de l'Elevage	France
Shepherd School	CFPPA Ariège Comminges	France
NGO	Euromontana	Belgium
Shepherd	Shepherd	Germany
Agricultural Institute	Campus AgriCorsica	France
National Park	Entente Causses et Cevennes	France
Other	Studio Verde srl	Italy
Other	Fundación Entretantos	Spain
Shepherd School	CFPPA des Hautes-Pyrénées	France
National Park	Parc National des Cévennes	France



LIFE20 NAT/IT/001076

Shepherds for Biodiversity in Mountain Marginal Areas





LIFE SHEP  
FOR BIO



EUROMONTANA

Type or Organisation	Organisation's name	Country
Shepherd School	EDINTRA - Andalucia & Red Escuelas pastores	Spain
Agricultural Institute	Institut Agro Florac	France
NGO	CIPRA International	Lichtenstein
National Park	Conservatoire d'espaces naturels - Provence-Alpes-Cote d'Azur	France
Shepherd School	CFPPA de la Cazotte	France

Table 1: List of actors who took part in the conference

#### Event organisers:

- Elena Feo & Guillaume Corradino – Euromontana (Belgium)
- Tommaso Campedelli – D.R.E.A.M. (Italy)
- Marie-Laure Girault and Alice Garnier – Institute Agro Florac (France)



LIFE20 NAT/IT/001076

Shepherds for Biodiversity in Mountain Marginal Areas





LIFE SHEP  
FOR BIO



EUROMONTANA

## 2. Day 1: Morning – plenary session

### 2.1 Ecosystem services and EU policy

**Elena Feo** from Euromontana delivered a presentation on the connection between ecosystem services and EU policies, emphasizing the importance of grassland ecosystem services and expressing concerns about the decline of semi-grasslands in Europe. While pastoralism has been wrongly blamed for this decline, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) stresses the need to revive traditional practices to sustain pastoralists' livelihoods and preserve biodiversity. European policies, including the EU Biodiversity Strategy, Birds Directive, Habitats Directive, and Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), play a crucial role in supporting mountain grasslands. The new CAP introduces measures that specifically support pastoralism and its associated ecosystem services, offering financial support and incentives for climate-friendly and sustainable farming practices. Preliminary analysis of member states' CAP implementation plans reveals the availability of coupled support, which is important for vulnerable farming sectors in mountain areas. These policies aim to ensure food security, improve farmers' livelihoods, address climate change, preserve rural areas and landscapes, and stimulate the rural economy, ultimately preserving ecosystem services and biodiversity in Europe's mountainous regions.



LIFE20 NAT/IT/001076

Shepherds for Biodiversity in Mountain Marginal Areas





LIFE SHEP  
FOR BIO



EUROMONTANA

## 2.2 Best practices to protect natural habitats and pastoral lands

**Francesca Napoleone** from Sapienza University, representing the consortium of LIFE ShepForBio, prepared a presentation on the conservation of semi-natural grasslands in Europe. The presentation highlighted the importance of grasslands for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services. However, the current measures in the European Union's Common Agricultural Policy are insufficient. To address this, the presentation proposed an integrated approach that combines agri-environmental payments, grazing regimes, and consideration of site conditions to enhance habitat composition and forage provisioning services. A study conducted in Italy and Switzerland emphasized the importance of appropriate management practices, with moderate grazing intensity proving beneficial for species diversity and habitat conservation. Agri-environmental payments were crucial in supporting extensive grazing management and positively impacting habitat biodiversity. Implementation at an appropriate scale and alignment with specific conservation objectives were emphasized. Taking into account site conditions, such as elevation and soil characteristics, was also crucial, particularly in mountain pastures. By integrating these measures and considering site-specific conditions, the conservation of semi-natural grasslands can effectively preserve biodiversity, maintain ecosystem functions, and support sustainable agriculture.



LIFE20 NAT/IT/001076

Shepherds for Biodiversity in Mountain Marginal Areas





LIFE SHEP  
FOR BIO



EUROMONTANA

### 2.3 How to manage your herd for better biodiversity management?

**Charlotte Dehays** from L'institut Agro Montpellier presented the findings of a collaborative study on grazing management for biodiversity benefit. Biodiversity plays a vital role in various aspects, and pastoralism has both positive and negative impacts on it. Agro-silvo-pastoral systems and extensive grazing can enhance habitat connectivity and create diverse landscapes, benefiting plants, insects, and birds. However, over- or sub-grazing, transport of herds, and homogeneous grazing practices can have adverse effects. To achieve sustainable grazing management, it is important to understand livestock behavior, assess available resources, design grazing circuits, choose appropriate animal species, diversify feed sources, and adapt management approaches based on results and objectives. The Mil'Ouv method, employed in the Mil'Ouv LIFE project, integrates pastoral and environmental diagnoses to modify management practices. Effective communication, monitoring, collaboration, and networking among practitioners, naturalists, farmers, shepherds, and research institutions are crucial for managing livestock to promote biodiversity.



LIFE20 NAT/IT/001076

Shepherds for Biodiversity in Mountain Marginal Areas







LIFE SHEP  
FOR BIO



EUROMONTANA

## 2.4 ShepForBio: objectives and actions

**Tommaso Campedelli**, coordinator of the LIFE ShepForBio project, presented the project's objectives and actions to address the issue of grassland habitat abandonment in the Apennines, Italy, and its impact on biodiversity. A key action highlighted was the establishment of a shepherd school to support generational turnover. The school started in April 2023 and will have four training cycles until 2026, accommodating eight aspiring shepherds per cycle. The project received 167 admission requests, including international applications, and selected a diverse group of 8 participants, including 5 men and 3 women, with varying backgrounds. The project covers all costs and provides accommodation for students during the 140-hour theoretical lessons, conducted on weekends from April to June. Following the theory, there will be a 30-day practical stage, divided into early summer and late autumn periods, where students will work alongside shepherds and breeders in mountain pastures and barns. The project plans to expand opportunities to other territories in the future, aiming to preserve traditional practices and ensure sustainable management of pastoral landscapes in the Apennines.



LIFE20 NAT/IT/001076

Shepherds for Biodiversity in Mountain Marginal Areas





LIFE SHEP  
FOR BIO



EUROMONTANA

## 2.5 Pastoral practices and biodiversity in the Coussouls de Crau Nature Reserve

**Axel Wolff**, from the Conservatoire d'espaces naturels de Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, presented a case study from Coussouls de Crau Nature Reserve. Over time, the Coussouls de Crau Nature Reserve has witnessed a remarkable transformation in the relationship between farmers and ecologists. Initially marked by confrontation in 1987, the scenario changed in 1990 when conservation schemes brought together peach growers to combat a common adversary. This cooperative spirit continued to thrive through agri-environmental schemes and the implementation of the LIFE program. Notably, the Crau hay growers' committee assumed the role of Natura 2000 manager in 1999. Subsequently, in 2004, joint management between the CEN PACA and the Agriculture Chamber was established, solidifying the collaboration. The ongoing dialogue and long-term cooperation have fostered mutual trust, respect, and understanding between farmers and ecologists, resulting in a fruitful partnership for the preservation of the reserve. The Coussouls de Crau Nature Reserve boasts a unique biotope featuring a remarkably resilient dry grassland. Despite enduring centuries of extensive grazing by farmers, the area has avoided significant degradation under the weight of grazing pressure. Moreover, the grassland promptly regains its "normal" state when farming practices change. Chronic overgrazing and grassland abandonment have not been prevalent issues. However, challenges persist, including the emergence of farming practices that favour fencing over employing shepherds and the potential impact of protection dogs on wildlife. Nevertheless, the ongoing dialogue and collaboration among the Agricultural Chamber, CEN PACA, and farmers have proven indispensable in averting conflicts and striving towards ambitious conservation efforts within the reserve.



LIFE20 NAT/IT/001076

Shepherds for Biodiversity in Mountain Marginal Areas





LIFE SHEP  
FOR BIO



EUROMONTANA

## 2.6 The role of the National Park in supporting pastoral activities and managing natural habitats

**Claire Remillieux** from the Cévennes National Park gave an overview of the evolution of the park throughout the years and what are the challenges for the upcoming years. The Cévennes National Park has been a dedicated promoter of biodiversity for over 40 years. Its unique combination of natural and cultural heritage makes it a significant and valuable asset. However, there are several ways in which the park can further improve and enhance its efforts:

1. Conservation and restoration: the park should continue to prioritise the conservation and restoration of its ecosystems. This involves actively managing habitats, monitoring endangered species, and implementing measures to mitigate the impact of human activities on the environment.
2. Education and awareness: enhancing educational programs and raising awareness about the importance of biodiversity and sustainable practices can significantly contribute to the park's mission. This could involve organising workshops, guided tours, and informational campaigns targeting both residents and visitors.
3. Collaboration and partnerships: strengthening collaborations with local communities, researchers, and relevant organizations can foster a shared sense of responsibility and cooperation towards conservation goals. Working together can lead to innovative solutions and sustainable practices that benefit both nature and the local economy.



LIFE20 NAT/IT/001076

Shepherds for Biodiversity in Mountain Marginal Areas





LIFE SHEP  
FOR BIO



EUROMONTANA

4. Sustainable development: the park should continue to prioritize sustainable development practices that support the local economy while minimising environmental impact. This could involve promoting organic farming, supporting local artisans, and encouraging eco-friendly initiatives such as renewable energy projects.

5. Cultural heritage preservation: while the park's primary focus is biodiversity conservation, it should also actively protect and promote its cultural heritage. This can be done through the preservation of historical sites and monuments, organising cultural events, and collaborating with local historians and cultural institutions.

By implementing these suggestions, the Cevennes National Park can further strengthen its role as a leading force in biodiversity conservation, sustainable development, and the preservation of cultural heritage.



Figure 1: Presentation from the plenary session



LIFE20 NAT/IT/001076

Shepherds for Biodiversity in Mountain Marginal Areas





LIFE SHEP  
FOR BIO



EUROMONTANA

## 2.7 Transfer of pastoral knowledge through collaborative projects

Transfer of pastoral knowledge through collaborative projects is a powerful way to preserve and disseminate valuable insights and practices related to pastoralism. By bringing together experts, practitioners, and communities, collaborative projects create opportunities for shared learning and exchange of ideas.

### 2.7.1 Results of the Erasmus + PastorEA project

**Marie Laure Girault**, coordinator of the PastorEA project, highlighted the project's concept, main outcomes, and future challenges. PastorEA, a European initiative, unites agricultural education institutions in France, Spain, and Slovenia with the aim of advancing pastoralism training and promoting agro-ecological transition. The project focuses on developing specialised training programmes for pastoralism, fostering a shared culture among European pastoralists, and facilitating exchanges and distance learning opportunities to enhance knowledge sharing. PastorEA also addresses disparities in representations and training contexts by leveraging existing initiatives and strengthening international collaborations. The project's future entails continuously adapting teaching methods and tools to ensure the profession stays relevant, ultimately aiming to establish a unified European programme that strengthens pastoral practices continent-wide.



LIFE20 NAT/IT/001076

Shepherds for Biodiversity in Mountain Marginal Areas





LIFE SHEP  
FOR BIO



EUROMONTANA

The PastorEA project acknowledges the need to upgrade pastoral activities, particularly due to the decline in family succession. By developing training programs, facilitating exchanges, and networking, and focusing on key themes like climate change, predation, forest fire prevention, and biodiversity preservation, pastoralism can thrive and overcome challenges. The international dimension offers opportunities for collaboration and knowledge sharing, leading to a unified European program. These collective efforts aim to revitalise pastoral activities, ensuring their sustainability in the future.

### 2.7.2 Results from the Past'Orale project

**Alice Garnier**, from Institute Agro presented the Past'Orale project. The project's main objective is to transfer invaluable expertise from experienced shepherds and stockbreeders to both their peers and future generations through the use of video and self-confrontation techniques. By showcasing the daily routines and technical gestures of these professionals and providing context and reasoning behind each action, the project aims to make their often-implicit knowledge visible and transferable to a wider audience. Furthermore, the project seeks to deepen our understanding of the learning processes involved in shepherding, foster collaboration among various stakeholders, improve working conditions, promote the agro-ecological transition, and create a comprehensive bank of videos to preserve and share shepherd expertise.



LIFE20 NAT/IT/001076

Shepherds for Biodiversity in Mountain Marginal Areas





LIFE SHEP  
FOR BIO



EUROMONTANA

### 2.7.3 Transfer of pastoral knowledge: the experience of Fire Shepherds

**Maria Diaz**, from the Escola de Pastors de Catalunya, shared the experience of the Fire Shepherds project. The project aims to prepare the next generation of shepherds to effectively manage extensive livestock farming, with a specific focus on preventing fires. This initiative is crucial due to the two common problems faced by the participating regions. Firstly, there has been a decline in the number of shepherds actively working in the field. Secondly, these regions experience large-scale fires that occur frequently during the summer season, and sometimes throughout the rest of the year.

Silvopastoralism plays a vital role in addressing these challenges. By integrating livestock farming with forestry, it contributes to the prevention of fires and enhances the ability to extinguish them when they occur. Public authorities recognize extensive livestock farming as a valuable strategy for preventing forest fires. Additionally, silvopastoralism enables the production of added-value products and generates a diverse and heterogeneous landscape, which promotes biodiversity.

The Fire Shepherds project has yielded several positive outcomes. The secondary results include the establishment of a cooperation network between project partners, the accumulation of real-life experiences for educational content, and the creation of strategic marketing cases that highlight the added value of products derived from silvopastoralism. The project also aims to raise awareness about landscape management as an effective tool for fire prevention and facilitate the exchange of good practices among participating regions.



LIFE20 NAT/IT/001076

Shepherds for Biodiversity in Mountain Marginal Areas





LIFE SHEP  
FOR BIO



EUROMONTANA

The project's objectives encompass various aspects. These include conducting a skills analysis, developing a comprehensive training module, and providing a study platform through Moodle, accessible at <https://www.fireshepherds.net/index.php>. Furthermore, the project plans to create a compendium of good practices, which will complement the study module and feature descriptions of case studies visited during exchanges in Catalonia, France, Portugal-Extremadura, and Germany.



Figure2: Q&A moment from the plenary session



LIFE20 NAT/IT/001076

Shepherds for Biodiversity in Mountain Marginal Areas





### 3. Day 1: Afternoon – workshops

During the afternoon, two interactive workshops were organised. The format of the interactive workshop was inspired by the World Café method. Participants were split in small groups of up to 7 participants each, and each group took part in three rounds of discussions on the following topics:

- How can we link teachers/trainers and other stakeholders (scientists, technicians, practitioners)?
- How to improve pastoral training programmes?
- What would be your expectations for the creation of a network of European pastoral schools? What should be the scope/objectives of such a network?

The groups rotated between three discussion areas, each dedicated to one topic, thus allowing participants to have a say on all topics. During the discussions, participants used post-its and flipcharts to collect ideas, with a support of facilitators from the ShepforBio project as well as from the Florac Institute.

#### 3.1 Workshop 1: How is biodiversity dealt with in pastoral schools & what educational tools and resources need to be created or developed?

The first workshop revolved around the role of biodiversity in pastoral schools and fostered dialogue with a series of key questions.

##### *How can we improve training programmes?*

Participants proposed a number of pathways:

- It is important to ensure there are modules dedicated to landscape management and biodiversity, that would address the benefits (for shepherds) of conservation and restoration of ecosystems. This should include training on wildlife management.



LIFE SHEP  
FOR BIO



EUROMONTANA

- It is important to foster collaboration and exchanges between training centres and pastoral schools (see Workshop 2), so that curricula can be shared among peers.
- Training on pastoral practices should take into account the evolution of local vegetation, and find better balance between theory and practice.
- Complexity should be inserted in training programmes progressively.
- Training programmes should contribute to raise awareness on the role of shepherds in the conservation of natural habitats. To do this, training programmes should include opportunities to create connections between future shepherds and natural habitats managers.
- Diversity of views and understanding of contradictions should be part of the programmes, in order to cultivate openness and a collaborative spirit.

***How can we generate interest in natural habitats protection and build adequate capacities?***

- Curriculums should be as concrete as possible, with “model farms” where good practices can be demonstrated and experienced in real life environments.
- New pedagogical formats need to be experimented, such as comics and gamification.
- Agroecology concepts should be integrated in training programme, ideally through practical factsheets adapted to the territory of the future shepherd.
- Develop exchange programmes and hands on interactions with ecology and pastoralism experts.



LIFE20 NAT/IT/001076

Shepherds for Biodiversity in Mountain Marginal Areas





LIFE SHEP  
FOR BIO



EUROMONTANA

### 3.2 Workshop 2: Needs/ideas/wishes for the creation of an European network on pastoralism training: What format? What objectives? Who is involved?

The second workshop focused on the set-up of a network about pastoralism training.

*How can we link teachers/trainers and other stakeholders (scientists, technicians, practitioners)?*

To enhance exchange and connections among actors involved in pastoralism, the following points and needs have emerged:

- Networking is crucial for shepherds to understand that they are not alone, and there are several other actors willing to exchange ideas and knowledge. In France, there is a designated day where shepherds and technicians can meet to address technical queries. However, these meetings often see the same attendees, and there is a lack of fresh perspectives.
- Cultural aspects should be taken into account since different working methods exist among EU countries.
- Carefully select engaging topics that can reach individuals who are typically difficult to engage.
- Organise practical training sessions. While France has made significant progress in this area, Spain has recently started implementing such initiatives, and Italy is yet to do so. These trainings should involve scientists as well, bridging the gap between research and practical application.
- Language barrier poses a challenge. Currently, there is insufficient cooperation to establish a common and understandable language. Often, shepherds feel like scientists are speaking in a different language. In France, there is a dedicated body responsible for translating scientific knowledge for teachers, enabling better understanding and explanation.



LIFE20 NAT/IT/001076

Shepherds for Biodiversity in Mountain Marginal Areas





LIFE SHEP  
FOR BIO



EUROMONTANA

- Designate a facilitator who can assist in coordinating efforts and ensuring smooth communication among the various actors.
- Involve students in the process. Choose relevant topics and prepare them in advance, so they can contribute with fresh ideas. They will serve as advisors or future shepherds.

By improving upon these aspects, we can enhance the exchange of ideas and connections within the pastoralism community.

***What would be your expectation from such a network? What should be the scope/objectives of such a network?***

When it comes to the network, the following suggestions have emerged:

- Establishing a network of schools would also involve creating an Erasmus-like program for shepherd students.
- Develop a platform where individuals can upload and share training materials.
- A network can thrive with the presence of a facilitator or manager. Explore funding possibilities to support this role. Establish guidelines and requirements for network participation. Additionally, for the network to have a purpose, it becomes inherently political.
- Lobbying should be another goal to pursue.
- A network can assist Eastern European countries in accessing knowledge from other parts of the EU.
- Clearly define the network's goals. It should exist to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and
- Pastoralism should receive improved attention in the next CAP (Common Agricultural Policy) from 2027 to 2033.



LIFE20 NAT/IT/001076

Shepherds for Biodiversity in Mountain Marginal Areas





LIFE SHEP  
FOR BIO



EUROMONTANA

- The network should adopt a bottom-up approach, respecting existing regional/national networks and avoiding competition with existing initiatives.
- Develop a platform where individuals can exchange information, similar to the EU Farmbook.

As **key barriers and needs** to the establishment of such a workshop, the following were mentioned:

- The absence of a natural project leader or coordinator was mentioned, and is to be the focus on subsequent work by ShepforBio in consultation with pastoral actors. At the same time, participants cautioned against the risk of over personification of such a role, and rather envisioned such network as an open knowledge sharing platform.
- The difficulty to agree on what topics to be considered for such network.
- Finding a common language between different countries, which could be very time consuming.
- Differences in challenges, cultures, and needs between countries may impact the collaboration potential. This requires good facilitators to orchestrate exchanges between actors.
- To overcome some of the above barriers, it is important to propose a clear roadmap and reasonable collaboration processes (i.e. right balance of in person and online interactions).



LIFE20 NAT/IT/001076

Shepherds for Biodiversity in Mountain Marginal Areas



## 4. Day 2: Field visit

### 4.1 Field visit to the plots of Sarah Courty and Julien Lespine, sheep farmers and shepherds

During the field visit, participants had a unique opportunity to gain insight into the experiences of two young sheep farmers who operate within the surroundings of the Cevennes national park. These farmers shared the challenges and opportunities associated with their profession, as well as the effective strategies they have employed to overcome these obstacles and thrive in their occupation.



Figure 3 and 4 Moments of the Field visit



LIFE SHEP  
FOR BIO



EUROMONTANA

## 4.2 Visit of the Interdepartmental Agreement of Causses and Cévennes - UNESCO site for its Mediterranean agro-pastoral landscapes

The Causses and the Cévennes in central France are a Mediterranean agro-pastoral Cultural Landscape covering 302,319 hectares. This mountainous region showcases the connection between agro-pastoral systems and the environment. It has deep valleys, villages, and stone farmhouses. Preservation of this landscape is crucial due to global challenges. Agro-pastoralism has shaped the area for over three millennia, making it a significant example of Mediterranean agro-pastoralism. The site has been listed as a World Heritage Site since 2011 for its exceptional landscapes, transhumance routes, farms, and villages.



Figure 5: Moments of the Field visit



LIFE20 NAT/IT/001076

Shepherds for Biodiversity in Mountain Marginal Areas





LIFE SHEP  
FOR BIO



EUROMONTANA

## 5. 1. Conclusions and next steps

First international exchange of this type organised by the ShepforBio project, the event was successful in framing the needs and concerns of pastoral training institutions, while at the same time disseminating good practices and fostering discussions on the role of pastoral activities in the management of natural habitats.

The interactive workshops, in particular, were an opportunity to map out the key challenges and opportunities for the creation of a European space for knowledge exchange on pastoralism. More importantly, the workshops showed there was interest and demand for such knowledge sharing beyond regional and national borders, as pastoral actors are increasingly confronted with similar challenges. The ShepforBio project will take stock of the findings from this first conference, and will design future conferences and dialogue events accordingly, pursuing two parallel objectives: supporting the creation of an EU wide network of pastoral schools and training centres, and the dissemination of good practices for the management of natural habitats through pastoral activities.



LIFE20 NAT/IT/001076

Shepherds for Biodiversity in Mountain Marginal Areas

